

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

Small businesses, like many found here on Staten Island, account for nearly two-thirds of new job growth. And going back to the beginning of last decade, at least two-thirds of small businesses have relied on the Internet as a tool to help improve their businesses.

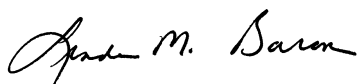
Of course, those two facts taken together mean that we must continue to drive online innovation if we are to improve employment in New York City and throughout the country. We can encourage the development of advanced wireless capabilities by allowing the AT&T/T-Mobile merger and others like it. This merger, docket 11-65, is awaiting your approval—which the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce urges you to grant.

From 1999-2009, the price of wireless service dropped 50 percent, likely due in part to five major telecom mergers. This merger could yield similar results. We are not asking that AT&T receive special treatment, the FCC and other regulators must continue to keep a close eye on AT&T and others after the merger. However, it is my understanding that AT&T will establish new industry benchmarks, especially for mobile broadband access, that will expand access and improve service.

55 million Americans will have access to mobile broadband for the first time, including many small business owners in underserved areas. A study by ABI Research found that small businesses tend to get a bigger boost from mobile technology than others. Not only that, but the mobile technology boom will foster new generation of mobile application entrepreneurs, who will need to hire employees, thus decreasing the unemployment rate.

The AT&T/T-Mobile merger is good for the marketplace, good for the economy, and good for the country. Please consider it carefully and allow it to move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda M. Baran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and middle initial "M." clearly visible, followed by the last name "Baran".

Linda Baran
President & CEO
Staten Island Chamber of Commerce

CC:
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell